

### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-30 are currently pending in this application. Of these, only Claims 1 and 28 are independent.

The Official Action objects to Claim 26 because it contains the phrase "the a." Accordingly, Applicant amends Claim 26 thereby deleting the word "the" which is at issue.

The Official Action also rejects Claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,006,486 to *Moriau et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,216,409 to *Roy et al.* For at least the reasons noted below, this rejection should be withdrawn.

**The date of invention of the present application based on a perfected priority date is prior to the date the *Roy et al.* reference is available as prior art**

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to Swedish Patent Number 9801987-0 which was filed on June 3, 1998, while *Roy et al.* was filed on June 25 1999. Applicant submits herewith a verified English translation of the foreign priority document SE 9801987-0 with the purpose of perfecting the priority claim and overcoming the date of the *Roy et al.* reference. See MPEP §§ 201.13-15 and 706.02(b). The foreign priority document antedates the *Roy et al.* reference. Thus, the *Roy et al.* reference is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102 to the present application and rejections based upon the *Roy et al.* reference are improper.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections relying upon the Roy et al. reference, e.g., the rejections of all pending claims 1-30.

**CONCLUSION**

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests timely withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1-30 and timely allowance of this application.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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